

sides of the aisle for his expertise, organizational ability, and exceptional diplomatic skills.

During his distinguished career, Larry—as he is known by his friends—managed relations with foreign embassies in Washington and consulates throughout the United States, handling issues of accreditation, privileges and immunities under international law. As a senior career officer in the bureau, he resolved sensitive cases involving diplomatic immunity, recognition of foreign officials, and establishing and breaking relations. He also organized participation of foreign government representatives in major national events, leading a team which arranged for more than 80 delegations from abroad and 180 ambassadors representing foreign governments to attend the State Funeral of former President Reagan. Mr. Dunham represented the State Department on television and radio broadcasts, in meetings with Congressional staff, journalists, and as an expert witness. He served as a speaker to groups including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of Secretaries of State, Smithsonian Associates, spouses of new foreign ambassadors, and consular corps throughout the United States. Among the awards he received were the Superior Honor Award for outstanding service in upholding international legal principles; Meritorious Honor Awards for initiative and leadership in monetary conservation and improvement in efficiency, and for outstanding managerial skills in restructuring work and improving service; the Secretary's Certificate of Recognition; the Commanders' Cross, Austria; and the Order of Queen Isabella, Spain.

A graduate of George Mason University School of Law, Mr. Dunham and his lovely wife Deborah reside in Annandale, Virginia. He is being honored on Friday, April 22, 2005 at an event at the DACOR-Bacon House in Washington, D.C. which will be attended by a number of ambassadors representing nations which he has assisted during his career.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Larry Dunham on his retirement and in expressing our appreciation for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF BILLY PAUL CARNEAL

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Billy Paul Carneal, a Springfield, Tennessee, native who has dedicated his life to public service and the past 11½ years as the executive director of the Springfield-Robertson County Chamber of Commerce. Billy Paul has decided to retire from the chamber, and I want to thank him for all he has done for his community, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

Billy Paul has served as a teacher in Robertson County, a school principal and administrator in nearby Cheatham County, the mayor of Springfield and a volunteer firefighter. In addition, he currently serves as a Robertson County commissioner. Billy Paul's contribu-

tions to his community can be traced to his grandfather, R.W. Darke, who was a member of both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly and the city clerk for Springfield.

Billy Paul's service as a public school teacher and administrator is especially admirable. He says he became an educator because his teachers in high school and college served as excellent role models for him. He then passed his own passion for case history and government to a new generation. Today, his former students are doctors, lawyers, public officials and teachers.

As mayor of Springfield, Billy Paul was instrumental in changing the city's form of government from three at-large commissioners to a board of mayor and aldermen, with a city manager to oversee operations. He says the decision to seed the change in government was one of the toughest he made as mayor.

Billy Paul's latest contribution to his community involved a very successful tenure as the executive director of the chamber. In this capacity, he improved immensely the quality of life for Robertson County residents. But Billy Paul did not do all this alone. He had help from many in the community, and he had the love and support of an understanding wife and family. He attributes the support of his wife, Pat, and their three children for his accomplishments. Billy Paul, I wish you well in your future endeavors and thank you for your service to a community you obviously cherish.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMANDA JENNER, BRIESE- MEISTER MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Amanda Jenner, Briesemeister Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Amanda Jenner received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a specialization in math from Southwest State University.

Ms. Jenner, who is also a former graduate of Seguin High School, understands the unique needs of her students. She prefers to look at every new day as an opportunity to learn from new experiences. As a teacher, she encourages her students to look at life's challenges in new and creative ways.

Math is important for success in later life, and Ms. Jenner believes that it is important to make the subject practical and even fun. She believes in the importance of having a good sense of humor and reaching students on a personal level.

I am proud to have had the chance to recognize Briesemeister Middle School's Teacher of the Year, Amanda Jenner. Her unique teaching style and personal approach help to create a healthy learning atmosphere for our children.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, during the day of April 20, I traveled to Rhode Island to attend the Funeral Wake of Providence Police Officer Allen. During this time I missed several rollcall votes.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes.

It was my intention to vote: "no" on rollcall No. 112, H. Res. 219. I would have voted "no" because this rule and this bill represent an unfunded mandate that shifts \$30 billion in clean-up costs of MTBE pollution in the drinking water supply to State and local governments. "Yes" on rollcall No. 113, H. Con. Res. 126: expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Congress in the aftermath of the recent school shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota. "Yes" on rollcall No. 114, H. Res. 208: recognizing the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jonas Salk on the fiftieth anniversary of the milestone discovery of the Salk polio vaccine, which has virtually eliminated the disease and its harmful effects.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### HONORING NICHOLAS P. GODICI

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas P. Godici, a distinguished public servant who is retiring after more than 32 years of exemplary service with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). In 2000, Commissioner Godici was appointed by the Secretary of Commerce as the first Commissioner for Patents under the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. That Act rechartered the USPTO and made the most significant changes to the U.S. patent system since the Patent Act of 1952.

As Commissioner for Patents, Commissioner Godici effectively oversaw an organization that employs more than 3,700 patent examiners who review and process over 350,000, patent applications each year. He was instrumental in the drafting and implementation of the USPTO's 21st Century Strategic Plan which is a comprehensive, ongoing effort to increase productivity in patent processing time, enhance patent quality, and promote electronic filing and processing.

Commissioner Godici began his career on June 25, 1972, as a patent examiner and his steady leadership and commitment to the patent system have earned him international recognition and the respect of his colleagues and the entire intellectual property rights community.

He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1990 as Group Director of a patent examination organization. In 1997, Nick was selected to serve as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patents responsible for all